

BRARY

ETON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

ACTING
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J. W. WEBB

M.B., B.S.(Lond.), D.P.H.(Lond.)

by

JAMES L. HILL

M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

For the Year 1947

including the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

A. W. G. CORNER

M.I.S.A.





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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health (Temporary) :

J. W. WEBB, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

A. W. G. CORNER (Cert.R.S.I.), M.S.I.A.,
Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Assistant Sanitary Inspectors :

A. H. V. MARSDEN, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.
Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

M. HODGKINS, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.,
Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

J. FORREST, M.S.I.A.,
Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Rodent Officer :

J. R. SNELL.

General Assistants :

H. W. FRY.

I. D. PRESTON. Granted leave of absence for full-time training course as Sanitary Inspector (April, 1947).

Shorthand Typist :

Miss E. J. WELCH (left February).

Miss M. PANNELL (commenced February).

Junior Clerk :

Miss J. KETT (left June).

Mr. D. PLATT (commenced June).

ETON RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1947

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and General Purposes Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Annual Report dealing with the health of the district for the year 1947.

A review of the statistics show that the health of the district was maintained at a high level. The Death Rate for Eton Rural District was 10·4 per thousand, as compared with 12·0 for England and Wales. There was no undue prevalence of infectious diseases and it is noteworthy that during the country-wide epidemic of poliomyelitis in 1947, this district escaped comparatively lightly with a total of eight cases.

An outstanding event in the year was the extensive flooding of a large area of the district, which occurred in the month of March and involved much additional work for the Public Health Department for a considerable time. It is satisfactory to record that no outbreak of infectious disease resulted from this period of dangerous sanitary conditions. A full account of the occurrence appears in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report.

In conclusion thanks are due to the Chairman and members of the Public Health and General Purposes Committee for their continued interest and encouragement during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES L. HILL,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I

STATISTICS

Area (Land and Inland Water)	35,500 acres
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate) ...	39,910
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1947, according to Rate Books	10,721
Rateable Value (1947)	£410,695
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£1,624

TABLE I

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

Total	776	Male 402	Female 374	
Legitimate	724	Male 374	Female 350	
Illegitimate	52	Male 28	Female 24	
Birth rate per 1,000 population				19·4
National rate				20·5

Still Births

Total	16	Male 7	Female 9	
Legitimate	13	Male 6	Female 7	
Illegitimate	3	Male 1	Female 2	
Still birth rate per 1,000 population				0·40
National rate				0·50

Deaths

Total	417	Male 197	Female 220	
Death rate per 1,000 population				10·4
National rate				12·0
Number of women dying in or in consequence of child- birth :—				
(a) From sepsis				Nil
(b) From other causes				1

Death Rates from Puerperal Causes per 1,000 Total Births

(a) From sepsis ...	Nil	National rate 0·10
(b) From other causes	1·2	National rate 1·07
(c) Total	1·2	National rate 1·17

Deaths of Infants under One Year of age

Total	26	Male 16	Female 10
Legitimate	23	Male 13	Female 10
Illegitimate	3	Male 3	Female -

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of age

All infants per 1,000 Live Births	33·5
National Rate	41·0

Deaths from Measles (all ages)

Male ... -	Female ... -	Total ... Nil
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Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)

Male ... -	Female ... -	Total ... Nil
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Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2)

Male ... 1	Female ... -	Total ... 1
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Births

The birth rate per 1,000 population for 1947 at the figure of 19·4 shows an increase over the 1946 figure of 18·06, but is slightly below the national rate of 20·5.

Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate at 33·5 per 1,000 live births compares with a national figure of 41·0 and shows a satisfactory improvement on the 1946 figure of 45·4 for this district.

Deaths

The total number of deaths in the district was 417, giving a rate of 10·4 against the national rate of 12·0.

The chief causes of death were in accordance with the usual findings, i.e., heart disease, cancer, and cerebral hæmorrhage in that order of frequency.

TABLE II
CAUSES OF DEATH in the Eton Rural District during 1947

						Male	Female
All Causes ...						197	220
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	—	—
2.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis or Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	14	5
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1	—
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	1
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	1
10.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
12.	Acute Infective Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
13.	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus M, Uterus F	...	...	...	...	—	2
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	8	6
15.	Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	...	—	9
16.	Cancer of All Other Sites	...	...	...	...	18	20
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	1
18.	Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	17	27
19.	Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	59	73
20.	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	...	4	8
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	5	5
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	10	11
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	4	4
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	6	2
25.	Diarrhoea, under 2 years	...	...	...	...	1	—
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	4	5
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	6	4
29.	Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—
30.	Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	—	1
31.	Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	3	3
32.	Congenital Malformations, birth Injuries, Infant Diseases	...	...	...	...	5	4
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	2
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	2	2
35.	Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	8	6
36.	All Other Causes	...	...	...	...	21	18

SECTION II

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Staff

The staff of Sanitary Inspectors has remained unchanged in personnel and has continued to work in an efficient and harmonious manner during periods of stress such as the local floods.

Laboratory Facilities

During the year samples have been examined at the Public Health Laboratories, Oxford and Reading and also at Slough Town Hall Laboratory and the Laboratory at this Council's Offices.

At the present time the Laboratory Services of the country are being largely re-organised, and it is anticipated that in the future improved facilities will be available to deal with specimens at one laboratory.

Ambulance Services

The ambulance service for the district continues on the same lines as previously and has proved satisfactory.

Isolation Hospital

The Cippenham Isolation Hospital deals with infectious disease cases in the area. During 1947 there were 78 cases admitted for treatment from the Eton Rural District.

Supply of Insulin

Under the scheme for free supply of insulin to necessitous cases, this Department issued supplies to four people at a total cost of £21 8s. 10½d.

Immunisations

Diphtheria immunisation and re-immunisation schemes in schools and Child Welfare Clinics were continued during the year. 774 children were immunised compared to 791 in 1946.

Whooping cough immunisation was carried out to an increasing extent at Child Welfare Clinics in the area, and, though not carrying the same guarantee of immunity as diphtheria immunisation, should prove of benefit in the future.

SECTION III

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

Five water undertakings provide supplies to the district for the areas detailed in the Report for the year 1946 and with the exception of supplies to new houses (mainly Council houses), little alteration took place in the number of premises supplied by the Undertakings. The Council have considered schemes for the extension of main supplies to the major portion of the Wraysbury area not so provided ; to the Boveney area of Dorney Parish ; and to that part of the Taplow Parish previously supplied from the private undertaking of the late Lord Desborough.

New and additional sources of supply for these Undertakings are in hand or proposed as follows :—

Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co. : Three boreholes at Thorney Lane, Iver, and

Burnham, Dorney & Hitcham Water Co. : One borehole on land near New Taplow Paper Mills, Taplow.

All the supplies of the Undertakings are treated by chemical action prior to passing through the mains.

During the year these extensions of mains were carried out :—

Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co. : 294 yds. 3-in., and 397 yds. 4-in. at Iver, and 230 yds. 3-in. at Fulmer.

Borough of Slough (Water Dept.) : 515 yds. 3-in. and 448 yds. 4-in. at Stoke Poges, 277 yds. 3-in. and 300 yds. 6-in. at Wexham.

Burnham, Dorney & Hitcham Water Co. : 122 yds. at East Burnham, 282 yds. at Farnham Royal, and 267 yds. at Taplow.

Amersham, Beaconsfield & District Water Co. : Extensions to serve new Council Estate at Gerrards Cross.

Sufficient supplies were maintained except for that portion of the Parish of Taplow served by the pumping station of the Taplow Court Estate during the floods of March. In this instance a temporary supply was afforded by the Burnham Water Co., within the course of a few hours. The new source of supply referred to earlier under the name of this Undertaking will obviate a like recurrence.

Apart from nine samples of water taken from main supplies, all of which were found on bacteriological examination to be satis-

factory, seventy-three samples were taken from other sources of which fifty-six were satisfactory and seventeen unsatisfactory.

Drainage and Sewage

The reception and treatment of sewage remains substantially the same as reported in 1946 to the four sewage works of the Council at Burnham, Gerrards Cross, and Iver Northern and Southern, and mainly in respect of the three parishes named. The number of premises served by cesspools and conservancy systems remains approximately the same.

Extension of sewers commenced or completed during the year were :—

900 ft. of 6-in. diameter private sewer for dealing principally with trade wastes from a factory at Colnbrook.

900 ft. of 6-in. diameter private sewer north of Iver Village.

Public Cleansing

On the 1st April, the Council took over all remaining cleansing work carried out hitherto by contractors and for this reason complete figures of the work done were not available. The number of vehicles were increased by four new refuse vehicles and three cesspool exhausters giving a total of thirteen refuse and salvage vehicles, twelve cesspool exhausters, and one service van. The vehicles used 27,625 gallons of petroleum spirit.

The number of workmen fell short of the total authorised establishment of 74 men and did not exceed 69. Difficulty of recruitment was due to competition and counter-attractions of the local industrial area together with the universal housing shortage.

A new cleansing depot mainly for housing vehicles has been built at Iver and had to be put into use before completion.

During 1947, 10,569 emptyings of cesspools were done, representing the carriage and disposal of 21,346 loads (750 gallons) for a mileage of 105,812 miles. These figures, whilst they do not cover the work of contractors for the first three months of the year for the parishes of Iver, Wexham and Fulmer, show a marked increase from the preceding year and despite the abnormal weather of the early months of this year. The emptying of pail closets was done weekly—the number at the end of the year was estimated at 750. The Public Cleansing Officer has advised the Council of the difficulty of getting labour to carry out this particular function, which he described as filthy.

Refuse collections, together with salvage, continued on the fortnightly period basis, but consideration is to be given to the possibility of a reversion to the weekly period. Here again, substantial increases of work are shown by the collection of 5,216 loads of refuse, resulting in the use of 9,181 gallons of petroleum for a mileage of 73,676 miles. The total of salvage sold dropped from 248 tons in 1946 to 213 tons for the present year, but receipts notwithstanding showed an increase from £1,456 in 1946 to £1,685 for 1947.

Refuse disposal was continued wholly by controlled tipping, the labour shortage preventing the use of the incinerator at Horton. The tip at Taplow caught fire during the summer, due, it is thought, to the action of trespassers, and despite strenuous action of various kinds, it was necessary to isolate the affected section up to the end of the year.

Consideration has been given to finding an alternative tip for the northern part of the district, made necessary by the impending completion and filling of the Gerrards Cross tip.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

A detailed report of the premises visited and action taken is included in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Swimming Pools

The only swimming bath open to the public in this district is the privately-owned one at Burnham Beeches. Continuous filtration and chlorination is the method used to preserve the purity of the water and a sample taken during the bathing season and submitted for bacteriological examination proved to be of a satisfactory standard.

Factories Act, 1947

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH, including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspection (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupier prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	19	9	1	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	113	53	14	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	132	62	15	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Reme- died (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp. (4)	By H.M. Insp. (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	6	4	—	2	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	1	1	—	—	—
Unreasonable Tempera- ture (S.3)	4	2	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	2	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	13	8	—	4	—
(b) Unsuitable or defec- tive	8	5	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including of- fences relating to out- work)	12	1	10	—	—
TOTAL	48	23	10	7	—

SECTION IV

HOUSING

Details of number of new houses built by the Council and private enterprise, inspections, formal action taken, are included in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SECTION V

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

Particulars of the persons and premises registered in respect of milk production appear in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Reconstruction and alterations of buildings were carried out at the premises of five producers under the supervision of the Public Health Department.

Only one dairy carries out the Pasteurising process and samples of milk taken from the plant showed satisfactory results, conforming to the requirements of the appropriate Order.

Seventy samples of milk were taken from producers and from the premises, etc., of retail purveyors and were submitted to the Laboratories at Town Hall, Slough (Borough), and to the Public Health Service Laboratories at Oxford and Reading for examination. These samples included a number in respect of ungraded or raw milk, for which there is as yet no legal standard, and in references to unsatisfactory samples of such milk, this factor has to be borne in mind. In all cases where the result was doubtful or unsatisfactory, further samples were taken.

Designation	No. taken	Satisfactory
Pasteurised	15	12
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) ...	—	—
Tuberculin Tested	1	1
Accredited	4	2
Non-designated Heat tested ...	6	4
Raw	44	29

Milk Special Designation Order

Licences for designated milk were granted as follows :—

Pasteuriser's Licence	1
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Tuberculin Tested Bottling	1
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Dealers' Licence :

Pasteurised ... 7

Tuberculin Tested	10	17
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Dealers' Supplementary Licence :

Pasteurised ... 6

Tuberculin Tested	6	12
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Ice Cream

There are six premises registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture and sale of ice cream, and fifteen premises for the storage and sale of ice cream. In addition, there are a number of vendors who are registered with neighbouring authorities selling from vans and tricycles.

Samples of ice cream gave these results of provisional gradings.

Grade 1	Nil		
Grade 2	2	(1 outside source of manufacture)	
Grade 3	3	(2 do.	do.)
Grade 4	10	(7 do.	do.)

In the case of one manufacturer in the district having a Grade 4 sample, his application for registration had been refused by the Council and in an instance where several Grade 4 samples were taken from several vendors with a common source of manufacture outside the district, the attention of the Medical Officer of Health of that district was called thereto.

Meat and Other Foods

Details of inspection and condemnation of foods, etc., are included in the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION VI

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The Infectious Diseases returns for the year show that there was no epidemic of serious infectious diseases though the figures for poliomyelitis show a rise in common with the national figures. Measles was prevalent with a figure of 297 cases compared to 373 in 1946. There were no cases of Smallpox, Typhoid or Paratyphoid Fever recorded in the district.

Scarlet Fever

In 1947, the number of cases was 38, compared to 59 in 1946. All cases were of the prevailing mild type and 22 were admitted to hospital chiefly as an isolation measure.

Diphtheria

Two cases of diphtheria were notified and admitted to hospital for treatment—one from Iwer and one from Datchet. Both cases recovered with treatment.

Poliomyelitis

During the country-wide epidemic of poliomyelitis in 1947, there were 8 cases notified in this district. These cases were fairly evenly distributed among the different parishes and no localised focus was discovered. It is noteworthy that five of these cases occurred in adults, so the term infantile paralysis is not a truly descriptive one for this disease.

All cases were treated in hospital, and no deaths occurred.

Measles

This disease was prevalent during the year, especially in the months January to May. The parish of Iwer was chiefly affected recording 142 cases out of the total of 297 for the whole area.

Whooping Cough

There was no epidemic wave of whooping cough during the year and the total of 71 cases is the average for the district in a non-epidemic year.

Tuberculosis

During the year the notifications of new cases of tuberculosis were Pulmonary 39, Non-Pulmonary 5. Giving a total of 44 cases compared to 48 in 1946. The total deaths from tuberculosis in 1947 was 22, giving a death rate of 0.50 per 1,000 population.

ETON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the Year 1947

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I submit herewith my annual report on the work of your Sanitary Inspectors.

A somewhat lengthy report is included on the floods which occurred in March, 1947, but I do not consider, nor in fact claim, that it gives a complete picture of the activities of all who were concerned and in that connection I am glad that a more comprehensive tribute will no doubt be included in the separate report to be issued by the Council.

Of necessity, the floods and the resultant aftermath did affect matters of a more routine nature but duties such as meat inspection, etc., were given the usual attention.

Movable dwellings still remain a difficult problem and may remain so as long as the acute and national shortage of houses persists.

Cesspool drainage and conservancy systems of sanitary accommodation continue, despite the excellent work of the Public Cleansing Department of the Council, to give numerous problems which take up much time in alleviation of conditions which are unsatisfactory to all concerned. The remedy is, of course, the general extension of main drainage to all but the most isolated cottage or building.

Once again I take this opportunity of thanking all my colleagues of every Department of the Council for their co-operation and assistance throughout the year, which has resulted in team work such as might be envied by many other Authorities.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council I express my sincere appreciation of your consideration and courtesy in respect of the varied problems which I have brought before you.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. W. G. CORNER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

FLOODS

MARCH, 1947

The extensive flooding of the countryside and towns, which occurred in March, had its counterpart in areas of this District, adjoining the River Thames, the River Colne and Colne Brook.

The flooding, which arose from the River Colne, particularly in the Denham area, whilst severe, fortunately was not of long duration. The Colne Brook overflowed and caused flooding at Colnbrook. Flood waters from this river linked up with overflow from the River Thames and inundated most of Horton.

In the case of the areas affected by the River Thames, the flooding was severe for varying periods up to a fortnight and many premises were inundated or isolated.

The flooding began to take a serious turn over the week-end, 15th-16th March. That Sunday, having spent the early hours of the morning assisting in the evacuation of livestock from farms, I found, later in the day, that conditions were bad, roads impassable, evacuation started and the position rapidly deteriorating. Through the good offices of the Mayor of Slough, an emergency meeting of Members and Officers of the two authorities, together with representatives of the Police, Food Office, Public Assistance and Education Authority was held at the Town Hall the same evening.

Emergency meetings at the Town Hall continued nightly for approximately a week. The results were invaluable.

In the early stages the foremost problem was the rehousing of those evacuated, many, if not the majority, by the Police, and here the Housing Manager was assisted by the Surveyor, the Slough Social Centre, and Members of the W.V.S., and was able to put to use various premises, including Duffield House, Stoke Poges. The feeding of the people in the flooded areas and the necessity for communications and transport were dealt with, in so far as related to food supplies, by the Local Food Executive Officer, the Divisional Education Officer, his assistant and by an able body of helpers at the Wexham Road Community Centre.

Transport was under the general direction of the Public Cleansing Officer and included large Army vehicles, contractors' lorries and the Council's own vehicles. Tanks of drinking water were despatched to Wraysbury, where driven tubes still formed the main source of water supply.

Apart from carrying meals, services and persons through the floods, other assistance was given by police and Council officials. They helped to man the vehicles, carried sacks of coal, drums of paraffin, newspapers, mail, etc., and in general kept touch with those occupiers of isolated buildings who were able, and preferred, to stay put.

The Medical Officer of Health toured the affected areas, and gave advice by loudspeaker equipment. In addition, leaflets giving advice on the many problems which arose were printed and distributed.

The Public Health Office became a centre for the distribution of soap, and for several days Officers of the department took soap, disinfectant and even firewood to householders of the flooded areas. At the same time, in anticipation of the need for reference, the opportunity was taken to make note of the extent of flooding of each dwelling visited. Further assistance in this respect was, however, found necessary, and two persons were appointed temporarily especially for this purpose.

Samples of water were collected from pumps in Wraysbury, and duly tested by the Council's Bacteriologist. All were found to be satisfactory.

Lime and disinfectant were procured in large quantities and dumps of these materials were established at convenient premises in Taplow, Dorney, Datchet, Wraysbury, Colnbrook and Denham, and the people invited to help themselves.

One of the big obstacles to speedy recovery from the effects of the floods was dampness of dwellings and their contents. It came to my knowledge that R.A.F. engine pre-heaters were in use in the neighbouring borough of Maidenhead and, following enquiry, the Royal Air Force, through the good offices of the Ministry of Health, sent six of these machines with their personnel to the District. The billeting, feeding, etc., of the R.A.F. personnel was not without difficulty, and I was greatly indebted in this respect to a few people in Datchet. Hot air generated by the R.A.F. machines dried approximately 80 premises.

The Ministry of Health also sent a portable Millbank Hot Air Disinfestor, but practical considerations prevented any use being made of this apparatus.

The drying of mattresses, carpets, etc., which could not otherwise be dealt with, presented a problem, but arrangements were made with the Isolation Hospital, and the Slough and Langley Laundry for drying on their premises. A member of the staff, with

a lorry and its driver, visited 73 premises, the majority in Wraysbury and labelled, collected and transported 607 articles, including 124 mattresses, 117 pillows, and 43 carpets to the respective drying premises and afterwards returned the goods to their owners. In the case of the Willowbank area, bedding, etc., was collected and dried at the Denham Film Studios.

Both His Majesty's Customs & Excise and the Board of Trade, the first in respect of clothing coupons, and the second in respect of permits to buy utility furniture and obtain priority dockets for mattresses, etc., required that applications should be certified as to the extent of inundation of the premises. I certified a large number of applications.

Effects of the floods remained long after they had subsided, and for a long time reflected on the work of the Public Health Department. The Medical Officer of Health played a large part in the investigation of the numerous claims made on the Flood Fund. The Sanitary Inspectors were concerned with problems of dampness, dry rot and similar conditions.

All reasonably possible steps were taken to safeguard the health of the community, and it is worth recording that no case of serious illness or disease, which could be attributed to the floods or lack of health precautions, has shown itself.

A handbook is in course of preparation by the Council on the whole aspect of the flooding and this will no doubt refer more specifically to the goodwill and assistance given by numerous people, organisations, etc., in the relief of those who suffered damage and hardships.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

(a) Meat

Slaughtering of animals for the supply of home-killed meat to the district generally is carried out at the Government Slaughterhouse at Gerrards Cross. The attention of the Area Slaughterhouse Agent, Ministry of Food, was called to unsatisfactory conditions prevailing at the slaughterhouse, and although certain works were carried out, it was the opinion of your Officers that the slaughterhouse was not adapted for its heavy and continued use. Towards the end of the year as the result of a meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Food, an agreement was reached which included a restriction on the number of animals to be killed daily : the actual killing operation to be carried out only in the slaughterhouse ; restrictions and conditions as to hanging of dressed carcasses ; and repair to walls, etc.

Details of visits and inspections are given below :—

Total number of visits to slaughterhouses	165
Total number of animals examined	... 5,722

	Cattle ex. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number slaughtered	1,057	214	620	3,792	39
DISEASE EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
1—Whole carcase condemned ...	—	2	3	2	—
2—Carcase of which some part or organ condemned	230	44	1	72	2
Percentage	21·76	21·49	·64	1·95	5·13
TUBERCULOSIS					
1—Whole carcase condemned ...	5	3	—	—	—
2—Carcase of which some part or organ condemned ...	161	36	1	—	2
Percentage	15·71	18·22	·16	—	5·13

Apart from the foregoing, your Sanitary Inspectors have co-operated with the Food Enforcement Officers of the Ministry of Food in regard to animals killed otherwise than in the Government Slaughterhouse, and where the circumstances would have been such that no inspections for fitness for human consumption could have been carried out. In one instance of illicit slaughtering so discovered, the offender was prosecuted by the Ministry of Food, and on conviction was heavily fined.

(b) Condemned Foods other than Home-Killed Meat

As the result of inspections of foods other than home-killed meat referred to in the preceding paragraph, the following articles of food were condemned in its then state as unfit for human consumption.

- 283 lbs. of corned beef in tins.
- 514 lbs. of imported beef.
- 12 oz. of corned mutton.
- 70½ lbs. of bacon.
- 46 tins of assorted tinned meats and meat and vegetables.
- 48½ stones of wet fish.
- 6 doz. plus 3 tins of fish cakes.
- 1 tin of dried egg powder.
- 208 tins of milk.
- 2½ cwt. of potatoes.
- 12 lb. jar of pickles.
- 4 lb. bag of flour.
- 20 tins of beans.
- 12 tins of soup.
- 65 tins of vegetables.
- 50 lbs. of prunes.
- 23 tins of fruit and jam.
- 2 gal. tin of concentrated orange juice.
- 7 boxes plus 159 lbs. of cheese.
- 306 tins of fish.

Miscellaneous

- 2 cases (332) of eggs.
- 2 boxes of sage and onion stuffing.
- 15½ lbs. of barley.
- 242 tins of fish paste.
- 6 boiling fowls.
- 1 pkt. of suet.
- 70 lbs. of dates.
- 24 lbs. of sausages.
- 1 box of lobsters.
- 3 tins of mussels.
- 49 lbs. of tea.

Disposal of Condemned Food

The disposal of condemned meat at the Government Slaughterhouse is under the control of the Ministry of Food. In respect of other condemned foods this is disposed of on the lines of the instructions given by the Ministries of Health and Food.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

The number of licences issued to persons authorising them to slaughter animals was eleven including eight renewals.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926

Entries in Register :

	Number
Cowkeepers	51
Dairymen and Retail Purveyors (with premises within the district)	93
Retail Purveyors (with premises outside the district)	7
Retail Purveyors (bottled milk only)	5
Dairies and Milk Shops	77
Cowsheds	80

Movable Dwellings

The number of applications for licences to use land as sites for movable dwellings and to station, erect, and use movable dwellings, shows a general increase and is without doubt due to the shortage of housing accommodation. The total number of applications made in persuance of the Public Health Act, 1936, Section 269, was 87 as indicated in the following table. The figures in brackets are those for the year 1946.

	SITES		INDIVIDUAL CARAVANS	
	New	Renewals	New	Renewals
Applications made	1 (2)	10 (4)	27 (19)	49 (4)
Granted	1 (2)	8 (3)	24 (16)	44 (4)
Refused	—	2 (1)	3 (3)	5

Rodent Destruction

This work has been carried out by the Rodent Officer on the same lines as for the previous year using the methods advised by the Ministry of Food and can be summarised as :—

Notifications	...	...	...	...	343
Surveys and inspections	...	...	...	...	1,194
Baitings, gassings and trappings	...	...	...	...	1,047
Dead rats found	...	...	...	...	897
Dead mice found	...	...	...	...	64

HOUSING

New Houses

The following houses were erected during the year :—

(1) By the Council	...	...	46
(2) By Private Enterprise	...	...	57

Inspections, Etc.

Number of houses inspected for housing defects (Rural Housing Survey)	...	...	...	...	1,967
Number of visits in connection with Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	2,090

Formal Action under Housing Acts

Seven individual houses which were considered as being incapable of being rendered fit at reasonable expense and beyond further temporary repair were dealt with as follows :—

Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	2
Undertaking accepted in respect of	...	...	...	...	1
Premises demolished before completion of formal action	...	...	...	...	1
Premises made fit and incorporated into adjoining premises before completion of formal action	...	...	...	...	1
Premises in respect of which formal action deferred or outstanding	...	...	...	...	2

Formal Notices

Housing Act (Section 9)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	*65

*In respect of 95 properties

Summary of Inspections

Housing (Survey)	1,967
Housing (including Public Health)	2,090
Drainage	754
Nuisances (refuse deposits, animals, dust and smoke) ...	487
Infestations (insect)... ..	52
Hutted Camps	80
Movable Dwellings (including sites)	165
Refuse Tips	44
Water Supplies	231
Factories	62
Shops (other than food premises)... ..	38
Shops, Cafes, etc. (food premises)	354
Dairies	296
Ice Cream	28
Slaughterhouses	167
Knackers' Yards	2
Schools	4
Petroleum Stores	57
Miscellaneous	90
Flood visits (estimated at over)... ..	2,000

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